



# Fact Sheet: Public Use Cabins General Information



Alaska Department of  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
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Alaska State Parks offers 50 recreational cabins for use by the public. The cabins are located along trails and near remote lakes, streams, and saltwater beaches. Most cabins are accessible by floatplane, wheel plane, boat, or trail year round. Only two cabins are accessible by road. Hikers should prepare for backcountry travel and be equipped to provide emergency shelter if they are unable to reach their cabin.

State park cabins sleep from three to twelve people and are equipped with wooden sleeping platforms, a wood or oil stove for heating only, a table, chairs, or benches, and nearby latrine. Designs vary. Only the Shuyak Island cabins have dishware, a propane stove, and lights.

Renters should take insect repellent (in spring and summer), an air mattress or pad as well as a sleeping bag, a gas or propane stove for cooking, and some way to purify water. Most public use cabins have a nearby water source, although the water will need purifying.

**FIREWOOD** – Visitors should be prepared to gather firewood in the vicinity of the cabins or bring their own firewood. **Only dead and down wood can be used.** Because of the scarcity of wood, please limit wood use to heating the stove. Please do not use the firewood for outdoor campfires. Occasionally, firewood is supplied at a cabin by state parks and is intended for use in the cabin's wood stove. If you can, please leave what wood you do not use for the next cabin user. Some of the new cabins have oil stoves. Be sure to know what kind of stove a cabin has, so you can bring appropriate fuel.

**Aircraft Access** – Charter aircraft services are available for almost all communities near cabin sites, including Anchorage, Willow, Homer, Kodiak, and Juneau. Aircraft services are generally listed in the yellow pages of local telephone books. Check individual cabins for aircraft accessibility.

**Hunting and Fishing** – Many cabins are located near excellent hunting and fishing areas. Copies of hunting and fishing regulations are available from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, (ADF&G) 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 (907-267-2100) or visit their website at [www.adfg.state.ak.us](http://www.adfg.state.ak.us) for information.

**Weather** – Variable year-round weather in Alaska requires warm clothing, which should include durable rain gear or good cold weather gear, and good boots. Layering is a good way to be prepared for weather variations. Bring clothing appropriate for the season. Backcountry weather forecasts are not provided by State Parks. Snow can occur any time of the year in some parts of the state. Please consult a current newspaper or call the weather service for updates on weather conditions.

**Bears** – Bears are common around many recreation cabins. **Please do not feed the bears;** it is dangerous and illegal. Burn your trash or take it with you so that bears are not attracted by food odors. Do not bury garbage or leave trash in the stove or fire pit. Keep food and cooking items neat and clean. Warn bears of your presence by making noise when in dense cover. Bears can be unpredictable and dangerous. The publication *Bear Fact* is available at the Department of Natural Resources Public Information Center (PIC), and gives information about avoiding bear encounters.

**Other Wildlife** – Wildlife should never be approached or fed; animals are unpredictable and should always be considered dangerous. Do not approach nesting waterfowl; they are very sensitive to human intrusion and may abandon their nests if disturbed.

**Giardia** – Although the water may look clean and pure, it may still contain the microscopic organism *Giardia lamblia*. Ingestion of this nasty parasite causes an intestinal disorder, which will surely ruin your visit and could be a continuing health problem. Purify all water before drinking.

**Overflow** – During winter months, *overflow*, the presence of water on top of frozen lakes, ponds, and streams is a winter travel hazard, particularly for snowmachiners. To avoid overflow, stay on or near packed trails while crossing lakes, ponds, and streams.

**Hypothermia** – Hypothermia can strike in any season! Be aware of its dangers. It is caused by exposure to cold and is aggravated by wetness, wind, and exhaustion. Hypothermia can occur on a sunny, warm, late winter day or a cool summer day with temperatures in the 40's and 50's.

**Regulations** – There are a number of regulations governing the use of state parks. Here are some that are particularly important to cabins users:

- It is unlawful to use a public use cabin without a permit. Each day of unauthorized use of a Public Use Cabin is a separate offense, subject to a \$50 fine.
- The use of explosive devices, such as fireworks, is strictly prohibited within all state parks.
- Dogs and other pets must be on a leash around developed facilities and under control at all times. Pet owners; please clean up after your pet. Sled dogs and horses should not be tied within 100 feet of a cabin.
- Discharging of firearms is **NOT** allowed within a ½ mile of a developed facility. Some parks are closed to the discharge of firearms.
- It is unlawful to cut standing or live trees.
- Littering is illegal. Please pack out what you pack in.
- Only dead and down wood can be used for fires and only during your stay in the park.
- Camping near a cabin is **not** allowed.

**Vandalism** – Damaging, defacing, or removing natural objects such as wildflowers, tree bark, or rocks is prohibited. Edibles, such as berries and mushrooms may be picked for personal consumption only. Please report vandalism or other violations to State Park rangers or the nearest State Park office.

**Be Courteous** – Litter is an eyesore and detracts from the enjoyment of others. Put all refuse, including cigarette butts, in waste containers or take it with you when you leave. Please leave the cabin in the same or better condition than you found it, so that the next users will also enjoy their stay.

**To Rent** – Reservations can be made on line at [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org), in person at our Public Information Center offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau or at the nearest State Park office. Alaska residents can make reservations 7 months to the day in advance of the first night stay and non-residents 6 months to the day in advance, Monday through Friday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Alaska time. Advance reservations cannot be made on weekends or State holidays, but can be made the next business day. All other cabin reservations can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Reservation requests can also be mailed or faxed. Credit cards (MasterCard or Visa) are accepted for payment when making reservations on line, mailing or faxing reservation requests or when paying in person at our Anchorage or Fairbanks offices. Reservations are not accepted over the phone. There is a \$10 service charge for changes or cancellations, which must be made 7 days in advance of the first night. A cabin credit less the \$10 service charge will be issued for reservations that are cancelled. A cabin credit is valid for one year from date of issue.

Rental fees for the cabins range from \$25 to \$75 per night. Peak rental rates are from May 1 to September 30; Holiday Peak Period December 15 – January 6 and March 15-31. Non-peak rental rates are effective October 1 – April 30.

Mail-in reservations should be sent to:

DNR Public Information Center  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1260  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557

**For More Information** – For location, cost, and stay limits, see the *Public Use Cabin Fact Sheet – Reservation Information*.

Other locations for information are:

DNR Public Information Center  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699  
907-451-2705

Mat-Su Area Office  
HC 32 Box 6706  
Mile 0.7 Bogard Road  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
907-745-3975

Kenai Area Office  
Mile 3.5 Lou Morgan Road  
P.O. Box 1247  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-262-5581

Homer Ranger Station  
PO Box 311  
Seward, AK 99664  
907-235-7024

Kodiak District Office  
1400 Abercrombie Drive  
Kodiak, AK 99619  
907-486-6339

Southeast Area Office  
400 Willoughby Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-465-4563